

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14291 171844Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BRUSSELS 14291

EXDIS

USEEC

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND WHITE HOUSE/HENRY OWEN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EEC, ECIN, PFOR
SUBJ: DOWNING STREET SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP REPORT

REF: BRUSSELS 13812

1. DURING DISCUSSION OCTOBER 17 ON OTHER SUBJECT, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS' CHEF DE CABINET TICKELL RAISED WITH DCM SUBJECT OF HANDLING OF DOWNING STREET SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP WRITTEN REPORT.
2. HE BEGAN BY DESCRIBING WHAT HAD HAPPENED DURING EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS RETREAT AT VILLIERS-LE-TEMPLE OCTOBER 8. DANISH FONMIN HAD TAKEN JENKINS TO TASK AT LUNCH, CLAIMING TICKELL, AS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE AT SEPTEMBER 30 MEETING, SHOULD HAVE DISTRIBUTED REPORT TO EC NON-PARTICIPANTS IMMEDIATELY. JENKINS DEFENDED TICKELL AND SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED ISSUE AT DINNER MEETING THAT EVENING WITH ALL NINE FONMINS PRESENT.

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3. JENKINS ASKED IF FONMINS OF FOUR EC MEMRS WHOSE REPS ATTENDED SEPTEMBER 30 MEETING THOUGHT REPORT SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER FIVE. FORLANI, GENSCHER AND DE GUIRINGUAD ALL AGREED IT SHOULD. OWEN RESERVED, PENDING CHECK WITH CALLAGHAN. TWO HOURS LATER, OWEN REPORTED CALLAGHAN AGREED. JENKINS THEN DIRECTED THAT REPORT BE GIVEN TO OTHER FIVE MEMBER STATES AND IT

WAS.

4. TICKELL PERSONALLY FEELS SOME EMBARRASSMENT ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE. HAD IT BEEN HIS DECISION, HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO CONFER WITH US, JAPAN AND CANADA BEFORE DELIVERING REPORT. HOWEVER, FACED WITH UNANIMOUS VIEW OF NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS (INCLUDING FRENCH) THAT TICKELL HAD BEEN PRESENT AT SEPTEMBER 30 MEETING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNITY (REPEAT COMMUNITY), HE BELIEVES JENKINS' ACTION WAS JUSTIFIED.

5. TICKELL ALSO REPORTED THAT IT WAS FURTHER AGREED AT VILLIERS, AGAIN UNANIMOUSLY, THAT, IN ALL FUTURE MEETINGS OF OFFICIALS BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SUMMIT, EC WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY OFFICIAL FROM COMMISSION AND OFFICIAL FROM MEMBER STATE THEN HOLDING PRESIDENCY, REGARDLESS OF WHICH COUNTRY THAT MAY BE. TICKELL SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY FRENCH LATER THAT FRANCE IS TIRED OF BEING ISOLATED WITHIN EC ON ISSUE OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND WILL NO LONGER OBJECT TO PRESENCE OF EITHER COMMISSION OR PRESIDENCY IN FUTURE.

6. TICKELL OFFERED TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO WRITING IN FORM OF LETTER TO HENRY OWEN IF WE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY. HE NOTED THAT SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP DURING HIS TRIP TO JAPAN LAST WEEK, THOUGH HE KNEW
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DCM'S ADVICE BY OCTOBER 19 AS TO WHAT WE THOUGHT HE SHOULD DO.

7. COMMENT. IF ABOVE REPORT ACCURATE, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS, VILLIERS HAS MARKED A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH. FIRST, FRANCE HAS EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT COMMISSION REPRESENTS THE COMMUNITY AND NOT JUST THE COMMISSION. SECOND, IT HAS AGREED THAT PRESIDENCY SHALL ALSO BE REPRESENTED IN FUTURE MEETINGS. SINCE THESE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONFIRM WHAT I UNDERSTAND TO BE EXPLICIT US POLICY (I.E., TO FAVOR COMMUNITY PRESENCE BUT LEAVE TO EUROPEANS DECISION OF HOW COMMUNITY SHOULD PARTICIPATE), I SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM MAKING AN ISSUE OUT OF HOW REPORT WAS HANDLED. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, I PLAN TO ADVISE TICKELL ON OCTOBER 19 THAT I SEE NO NEED FOR LETTER TO OWEN, THAT HIS REPORT TO MORRIS HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON, AND THAT WE CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHOULD CONSIDER REPORT AS SECRET. HINTON

SECRET

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